

# Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Lucas State Office Building • Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0083

For Immediate Release

Contact: David Werning

Phone: (515) 281-7376

E-Mail: [David.Werning@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:David.Werning@dia.iowa.gov)

## **Nominations Sought for 2011 Governor's Award for Quality Care**

DES MOINES, IOWA (February 4, 2011) – Nominations are now being accepted for the 2011 Governor's Award for Quality Care in Health Care Facilities. The Governor's Award recognizes Iowa health care facilities that offer unique or innovative activities to enhance the quality of care or quality of life for their residents. Nominations are open to all health care facilities licensed under Iowa Code chapter 135C, which include nursing facilities, residential care facilities, residential care facilities for persons with mental illness or mental retardation, and intermediate care facilities, including those facilities specializing in the care of persons with mental illness or mental retardation. Not eligible for nomination are assisted living programs, elder group homes, or hospital-based nursing facilities as these facilities are not licensed under the Iowa Code chapter establishing the Award program.

Last year, one long-term care facility was recognized for the quality of care provided to its residents. Selected to receive a 2010 Governor's Award was Winterset Care Center North, which was cited for the extensive activities it provides for its residents. Since the first awards were presented in 2001, a total of 38 facilities have received a Governor's Award, with several facilities being repeat winners.

Residents, family members, or members of a facility's resident advocate committee may nominate an Iowa-licensed long-term care facility for the award. Facilities may not nominate themselves for this recognition. In order to be considered for a 2011 Governor's Award, the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) must receive the nomination by the close of business on March 1, 2011. Nomination forms may be obtained by calling DIA's Health Facilities Division at (515) 281-4115. Forms may also be downloaded from the Department's web site at <http://dia.iowa.gov>.

All nominations must state the reason the facility should be considered, such as any unique services provided by the facility to its residents, and any activities undertaken by the facility to enhance the quality of care or quality of life for its residents. A facility's compliance history and whether it accepts residents for whom costs are paid by the Medicaid program are also key factors used in the determination of eligibility for a Governor's Award. Upon receipt by DIA, the nominations will be evaluated and a list of finalists prepared. Under Iowa law, no more than two facilities from each Congressional District may be selected for a Governor's Award.

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